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### PSYX 120.02: Research Methods I

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Houck, Shannon C., "PSYX 120.02: Research Methods I" (2015). *Syllabi*. 2800.

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## **Psychology 120 (Section 2)—Research Methods I**

**Spring 2015**

### **Course Location and Time**

Tuesday/Thursday 2:10pm – 3:30pm  
ISB 110

### **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Shannon C. Houck  
Office: Skaggs Bldg. 236  
Email: shannon.houck@umontana.edu (the best way to contact me)  
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30pm-2:00pm

### **Required Text**

Shaughnessy, J.J., Zechmeister, E.B., and Zechmeister, J.S. (2012). *Research Methods*. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill.

### **Course Objectives**

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of the research methods used in psychological research. Throughout the course of the semester students will learn to develop research studies to examine topics of interest and to present results in written form. Students will also learn to become critical consumers of research. Specific topics to be covered include the foundations of research, sampling, measurement, research design, and analysis. Students are expected to think critically about the issues and to actively participate in class discussions and activities. The format of the course will rely on both lecture and discussion.

In order to accomplish this objective, it is expected that students will exhibit professional behavior throughout the course. This includes, for example, student attendance, preparedness, and active participation and involvement in class. Students not exhibiting professional behavior may be asked to leave.

## **COURSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES**

### **Academic Misconduct**

You are expected to adhere to the university's student conduct code with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the university. Please familiarize yourself with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

### **Disability Modifications**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you have a disability

adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

### **Courtesy**

Courtesy is expected. Come to class on time and stay for the entire session. If you have an emergency and must come in late or leave early, please do so quietly. Please be quiet and polite during class. If you are not enthralled, that's OK; if you read the paper, talk to your neighbor, or do anything else that is distracting to me or to others, that is NOT OK. It is my responsibility to create a good learning environment, and I will remove people who are distracting if that is what it takes to do so.

### **Attendance/Announcements**

Attendance is not mandatory and role will not be taken. However, your course grade is determined by exams (which will include material from lecture as well as the text), and in-class assignments. **Course notes are not posted and I do not give my notes out for any reason** – if you miss class, you are responsible for the material covered. Further, students are responsible for any announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, assignment requirements, etc.

### **Course Withdrawal**

April 6th is the last day to drop classes with an add/drop form. After that date, no petitions to drop the course will be signed and no Incompletes will be given except in documentable emergency situations.

## **HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED**

### **Exams**

You will have 3 exams throughout the course. Each exam will contain a total of 50 multiple-choice questions (2 pts. per question=100 pts. each exam). The exams will test your knowledge of topics covered in lecture as well as in the text. **A cumulative final exam will be an option** during final exam week. Students choosing to take the cumulative final may drop their lowest test score. There are no make-up exams, except in the case of a documented emergency (medical, family death, etc.), in which case you will need to notify me prior to the missed exam.

### **In-Class Assignments**

A variety of in-class assignments will be given throughout the semester. These assignments will vary depending on the topic discussed in class that day. For example, students may be asked to reflect upon a particular issue in research and turn in a brief written response. Assignments are designed to increase students' ability to apply concepts from class. There are no make-ups for in-class assignments (except in the case of a documentable emergency).

### **Grading**

Your final course grade will be based upon a total of 325 possible points that will be distributed as follows:

- 3 Exams (100 points each): 300
- In-class Assignments: 25

Course grading will be based on the following point scale:

A:	90% or higher
B+:	86-89%
B:	83-85%
B-:	80-82%
C+:	76-79%
C:	73-75%
C-:	70-72%
D+:	66-69%
D:	63-65%
D-:	60-62%
F:	59% and below

Be warned now: I will round decimal places equal to or greater than ".5" up (so a total of 89.5% will be an "A"); however, beyond this, the grade you receive will be whatever the numbers say, **NO EXCEPTIONS** (so an 89.4% will be a "B+"). I am aware that this can create some unfortunate circumstances for those students who are on the "bubble". However, the problem with changing the criterion for a given student is that, once I change that criterion, inevitably another student is "right on the bubble," so ultimately *someone* just barely misses it. I don't want to be overly subjective in my judgment of who should get to surpass the objective criteria; thus, no one will.

*NOTE: If you are a psychology major, you must get a C, not a C- for the grade to count.*

**The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus if necessary.**

<b>COURSE SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNED READING/EXAMS</b>
Jan. 27	Course Overview/Introduction	
Jan. 29	Introduction	Chapter 1
Feb. 3-Feb. 5	The Scientific Method	Chapter 2
Feb. 10-Feb. 12	Ethical Issues	Chapter 3
Feb. 17-Feb. 19	Observational Methods	Chapter 4
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 24</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>Chapters 1-4</b>
<b>Feb 26</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Mar. 3- Mar. 5	Survey Research	Chapter 5
Mar. 10-Mar. 12	Independent Group Designs	Chapter 6
Mar. 17-Mar. 19	Repeated Measures Designs	Chapter 7
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 24</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>Chapters 5-7</b>
Mar. 26	Complex Designs	Chapter 8
<b>Mar. 31-Apr. 2</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Apr. 7-Apr. 9	Complex Designs, Single Subject/Small N Designs	Chapters 8 & 9
Apr. 14- Apr. 16	Quasi-Experimental Designs	Chapter 10
Apr. 21-Apr. 23	Data Analysis (Part I and II) & Interpretation	Chapter 11 & 12
Apr. 28-Apr. 30	Data Analysis (Part I and II) & Interpretation	Chapter 11 & 12
<b>May 5</b>	<b>*Review Day*</b>	<b>Review Ch. 8-12</b>
<b>Thursday, May 7</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b>	<b>Chapters 8-12</b>
<b>Monday, May 11</b>	<b>Optional Cumulative Final Exam</b>	<b>Chapters 1-12</b>

**PLEASE REMOVE THIS PAGE FROM YOUR SYLLABUS**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print your name) hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Research Methods I syllabus for Spring 2015. I have read the syllabus and understand all the course policies and requirements. I recognize that it is my responsibility to seek clarification regarding any aspect of the syllabus, the course requirements, or the grading policies if they are unclear to me.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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I do not post grades with student ID #'s. You will need to provide me with a "code name" if you would like your grades posted following tests. Please be certain to choose a code name that is familiar to you, so that you remember it when you look up your grades. **WORD OF CAUTION: I will NOT accept codenames that are inappropriate (racist, sexist, general bad taste).**

CODE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please provide the following information below:

1. Name:
2. UM e-mail address: